

Dear Paul,

5/31/68

Your non-airmail package of 5/28 arrived this morning. Indeed, it does contain goodies.

One of the problems of all of us having too much to do is that we cannot communicate as often or as frequently as we should. Last time I was out there, on KLIAC in particular, I had several people phone in on security clearances. One even sent me copies of the then-current regulations. I believe two confirmed that top-secret is prerequisite to crypto. I had had a similar report from a check I had made in Boston last year.

If Oswald ever had any security clearance revoked, I've seen no evidence of it. I also believe Thornley may well have known better. Close reading of his testimony about "secret" convinced me that his concern here was about perjury and that he left a record showing he knew Oswald's work required at least secret.

There is more than ~~known~~ bureaucratic reason for suspecting ONI involvement. Let me give you a few slight things. When Perrin went to Dallas, according to Nancy, he went by way of Grand Rapids. Joel Palmer, now in LA area and supposedly in touch with Steve Burton, if he did what I asked, was able to do some checking and found a major secret ONI operation there (Hope Hal is able to follow that Youngblood thing out, because it may relate), Jack Martin has a personal friend in ONI in Washington. I suspect Jack is paid by the other side. He knows things going to Jim before Jim does, once let proof of this slip to me. Guy Banister had close ONI connections, according to Martin. Dean Andrews told me it is more likely that Banister was ONI than CIA (but Dean now lies about everything). He was close to Banister and those around him. Banister's assistant Hubie Badeaux, who wrote a vile book on sex in that area, went to ONI, not FBI, with what he regarded as "subversive" sex stuff. In short, there seems to have been an ONI-oriented group in N.O., not unlikely for a port area. Nor is there any reason to consider CIA-collaboration unlikely. However, I think it much better to say CIA only in public, not ONI, for ONI has been mentioned so little they may be unconcerned about the chances of our learning anything and may not be taking coverup steps.

On your list of members of the FPCC (I'd appreciate a copy when you can spare it) I'd like to ask an immediate favor. Ed Butler is to appear on a New Orleans TV show in a week or so. I could not be there. I have, at his request (on our side), sent the moderator a few things on Butler and his phobias, and a few questions to ask. I am to get a sound tape of the show. I think it important that he know that the official records show there were no FPCC members at the time of its greatest activity. If you cannot or think you should not send this entire thing, can you either Karox the appropriate page(s), or paraphrase, and rush, with a note saying that it is at my request, to: Mr. David Wagenoord, WYOM-TV, Ch. 26, International Trade Mart Bldg., N.O. (If you want to be conspiracy minded, they share the floor with International House and the Hull Foundation, according to the door, but I understand Hull is now elsewhere). Alberto Fowler is also on that floor.

For a clue on why those 6 pages of QD365 are withheld, why not ask what guideline? If they can give out all this slanderous stuff about membership, can they here invoke protection of the innocent? Please send Jim a memo on this, saying I asked you to, in the event he wants to ask the State for it (or make a record of their refusal to give it to him).

On the indexes, let's be orderly. I make too many mistakes. I've told you which I have. Tell me which you want copies of and I'll make and send them. I have had no response from Johnson on any others. Tell me which you have and if I later get any you do not, I'll make and send copies. By the time you can reply I'll be out from under one immediate pressure.

The Archives has always used such indirect language with me. I suggest that as time goes on you be alert to see that you get everything and that nothing is reclassified. I am convinced that everything we order is recorded and studied and that when we get close to something, agencies get troubled and do something. If their understanding was better and if they were not complicated by their own kookie doctrine we'd get less.

One thing that might please you is how I "blew the minds" of a couple of agents who covered my Univ of Minn speech with a small tape recorder. I mentioned their presence, bid them welcome, told them to be unconcerned about the shortness of their tape, for I'd arranged to have a copy available for them (true, they were spotted before I began to speak), and then, in a speech on the integrity of society, spelled names out for them, noting my concern for their accuracy and desire to help them perform at maximum efficiency-the whole, quiet schmeer! They finally blew, realizing they could not turn in such a tape, took it out and in a burst of anger tramped on it! A note from Gary Schoener in today's mail reports the above and a little more-their annoyance at the chattering about them by three old ladies sitting right in front of them. We had fun!

I made an awful blunder blowing my own cool when I met Butler on the Tyne show. However, if he says anything bad about me in N.O. I'll have a chance to respond, sometime. Also, I am trying, through a university faculty member (who is both a police agent and on our side) to arrange for some student summer research. Be thinking about what you might want done locally about INCA, especially what might be gleaned from library sources. Are there, to your knowledge, any archives in N.O. that we should try and tap? With nonpolitical help? I also have a couple of little old ladies (too rich for tennis shoes) who would not mind doing a little leg work. The office does not use them. Can we, with things you'd like checked out there?

On your cross index: can you go from this to a complete, alphabetical one? I'd love that!

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg